

WIN AT WOKING

By "CHILTERN"

Woking 1,

Wycombe Wanderers 3

FLU-bugged Woking gave Wycombe Wanderers a fright in the second-half of this Isthmian League game on Friday night until the referee gave Wycombe an extremely generous penalty with which Paul Bates clinched the points.

Woking had to bring in four reserves and make three other positional changes after influenza had sliced through the side, and as a result Wycombe had pretty much their own way in the first-half.

In the fourth minute Wanderers went ahead with an easy-looking goal from Les Merrick. Bates crossed from the right and the winger was running through to beat his full-back and shoot past Rose.

It began to look as if Wycombe were to have it all their own way when, quarter-of-a-hour later, Tony Horseman shot home from the edge of the penalty area from another shrewd Bates' cross.

PAST THE POST

Horseman almost made it three when he just failed to reach a through pass from Bates as it trickled past the post and Bates himself hit the bar from a Samuels' throw-in.

Apart from near misses from Gale and Samuels, Wycombe did not get near again in the first-half. Their approach work was good, but always seemed to fall away with a bad final pass.

They were without Bradshaw, who had tonsilitis, and Roystone dropped back to right full-back. Stuart Thompson was retained at inside-right, and covered a great deal of work once more.

Wanderers were given a fright in the second-half when Woking played with much more fire. And once they found they could play some good football with their weakened side against the championship challengers, they began to pile it on.

They showed more determination and held the play for long periods. But Woking were ineffectual in front of goal until the 75th minute, when inside-left Cooper headed a left-wing corner home. The goal gave them heart and they really tried for the equaliser until Bates was upended in the area by Martin.

Referee Mr. Prest had no hesitation in pointing to the spot—a decision which I thought harsh. Perhaps he had had enough of full-back Martin's robust play with which he had persisted from early in the game.

As always, Bates converted the spot-kick in masterly style.

Wycombe missed many first-half chances and had Thompson and Merrick had a bit more luck with first-time shots in the second-half Wycombe would have won by an even bigger margin.

Rundle was solid in mid-field apart from one mistake when Maskell had to avert the danger after O'Riordan had broken through.

Baker tackled well as usual, and covered a lot of ground.

Wycombe.—J. Maskell; P. Roystone, J. Beck; B. Baker, T. Rundle, C. Gale; K. Samuels; S. Thompson, P. Bates, T. Horseman, L. Merrick.